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26 December 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: White House Discussion of Agency Congressional Liaison

1. Today I attended a meeting in the office of Bill Timmons, Assistant to the President for Congressional Relations, at his invitation. Also present were Dick Cook, Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs (House); Tom Korologos, Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs (Senate); Max Friedersdorf, Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs (House); and Wallace Johnson, Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs (Senate).

2. A couple of weeks ago Korologos had tipped me off that Timmons wanted to talk to me about postponing my retirement and Timmons opened the discussion by saying he hoped I would stay on for the next two or three years, or at least until the new Director got well settled in and a replacement could be found for my job.

3. I said I had agreed with Mr. Helms to stay until the end of 1973 and was still prepared to do this if Dr. Schlesinger so desired, but I felt he should have his options. Timmons said he would "make sure" that this was all right with Schlesinger. I said I was flattered to be asked to stay on but felt sure
25X1A that within a year a fully qualified replacement could be found, adding that my present deputy, [redacted] could take over the job tomorrow if need be and that once Dr. Schlesinger and the White House liaison team got acquainted with him they would undoubtedly agree. I briefly described [redacted] background and qualifications.

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4. In response to their questions, I identified the other members of OLC and their respective responsibilities. To their further questions, I explained in some detail what our day to day work amounted to and the most common problems that we encountered.

5. In reply to questions, I said that Helms would certainly be missed within the Agency and by a number of key people on the Hill who held him in the highest regard, but I saw no reason to think there would be congressional opposition to Schlesinger. Korologos remarked that he had accompanied Schlesinger recently on visits to Senator Stennis in Mississippi and Representative Hebert in Louisiana and things had gone smoothly. Timmons said I should be sure to pass on to Schlesinger any suggestions as to how he should reply to questions that might come up during the confirmation hearing.

6. When queried about the outlook for the coming year, I said a new Director, like a rookie defensive end, could expect quarterback Fulbright to try to run some tricky plays over him before he got settled in his position. In addition, I said Congress was likely to focus on three main areas of concern regarding the Agency:

a. Increased knowledge of, and control over, its funds;

b. Broader access to the intelligence product; and

c. Closer scrutiny and tighter legislative controls over political and paramilitary operations.

7. To questions regarding my personal views on the LIG (Legislative Interdepartmental Group), I said these meetings sometimes provided a useful device for discussing broad congressional issues of concern to the CIA and other Executive agencies. For example, I said I thought it very important that the full legislative resources of the Administration be coordinated in order to forestall disruptive and restrictive congressional intervention in Agency operations.

8. In response to further questions, I explained the general pattern and policies of our congressional briefings, how we handle sensitive material (including custody of transcripts) and policies governing clearances of congressional staff personnel (of both committee staff and staffs of individual members).

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9. To the question of coordinating congressional briefings with other agencies, especially Defense and State, I said that our substantive experts were in close daily communications with their opposite numbers in these agencies, and serious substantive differences between them were rare. I added that short of trying to sweep major substantive differences under the rug, we worked closely with our opposite numbers and I was in frequent touch with Dave Abshire in State and Rady Johnson in Defense.

10. Timmons said they were concerned about a replacement for Abshire and he wondered if I had any views. He said they had approached former Congressman Armistead Selden, but had been turned down. He wondered whether I knew Jack Marsh, former congressman from Virginia. I said Marsh was indeed an old personal friend, and a very good friend of the Agency and a supporter of the Administration. However, I said I had understood that his health may have been a factor in his retirement from politics and this might create a problem. In response to their questions about career Foreign Service Officers, I said one of my best personal friends, who was also an officer whom I admired professionally, was Tap Bennett, former DCM Athens, Ambassador to the Dominican Republic and to Portugal, and now Deputy U.S. representative to the UN Security Council. I remarked that Bennett, a native of Georgia, had been a protege of Senator Russell's and I thought was well connected with Capitol Hill.

11. In closing they asked me to give further thought to candidates for the State Department job and to see if I could come up with some names of congressional staff members. One name they mentioned was Marian Czarnecki, Staff Coordinator, House Foreign Affairs Committee. I said I had a very good impression of him although I had never worked closely with him.

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